GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – A.P. Forest Department – Case under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 on the allegation of demand and acceptance of bribe - Trapped on 05.06.2014 - Disciplinary proceedings initiated – Inquiry under Rule 20 of A.P. Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991 against Sri Rallapalli Vigneswarudu @ Vigneswara Rao, the then Deputy Forest Range Officer, V. Madugula and In-charge Forest Range Officer, Chodavaram - Articles of Charges – Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (Sec.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.51 Dated:05.07.2023

Read the following:

1) From the Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau, AP., Hyderabad, RC.No.137/RCT-WVP/2014, dated 22.12.2015.
2) Memo.No.4210/Sec IV/A1/2014, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Department, dated 25.09.2017.
3) From the Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau, AP., Vijayawada, RC.No.137/RCT-WVP/2014-S.11, dated 29.05.2023.
4)G.O.Ms.No.39, EFS&T (Sec.IV) Dept., dated.05.07.2023.

ORDER:

It is proposed to hold an inquiry against Sri Rallapalli Vigneswarudu @ Vigneswara Rao, the then Deputy Forest Range Officer, V. Madugula and In-charge Forest Range Officer, Chodavaram in accordance with the procedure laid down under Rule 20 of the A.P. Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991.

2. The substance of the imputations of misconduct or misbehaviour in respect of which the inquiry is proposed to be held is set out in the enclosed statement of article of charges (Annexure-II). A list of documents by which, and a list of witnesses by whom, the articles of charges are proposed to be sustained are also enclosed (Annexure-III and IV).

3. Sri Rallapalli Vigneswarudu @ Vigneswara Rao, the then Deputy Forest Range Officer, V. Madugula and In-charge Forest Range Officer, Chodavaram, is informed that he is directed to submit a written statement of his defense within (10) days from the date of receipt of this order.

4. Sri Rallapalli Vigneswarudu @ Vigneswara Rao, the then Deputy Forest Range Officer, V. Madugula and In-charge Forest Range Officer, Chodavaram, is informed that the inquiry will be held only in respect of those Articles of Charges as are not admitted. He should, therefore, specifically admit or deny each Article of Charge.

5. Sri Rallapalli Vigneswarudu @ Vigneswara Rao, the then Deputy Forest Range Officer, V. Madugula and In-charge Forest Range Officer, Chodavaram, is further informed that if he does not submit his written statement of defense within the time specified in Para-3 above, further action will be taken based on the material available.

6. Attention of Sri Rallapalli Vigneswarudu @ Vigneswara Rao, the then Deputy Forest Range Officer, V. Madugula and In-charge Forest Range Officer, Chodavaram, is invited to Rule 24 of the A.P. Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, under which no Government Servant shall bring or attempt to bring any political or outside influence to bear upon any superior authority to further his interest in respect of matters pertaining to his service under the

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Government. If any representation is received on his behalf from another person in respect of any matter dealt within these proceedings it will be presumed that Sri Rallapalli Vigneswarudu @ Vigneswara Rao, the then Deputy Forest Range Officer, V.Madugula and In-charge Forest Range Officer, Chodavaram is aware of such a representation and that it has been made at his instance and action will be taken against him for violation of Rule 24 of the A.P. Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

7. The receipt of this order may be acknowledged.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

B RAJSEKHAR
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (FAC)

To
Sri Rallapalli Vigneswarudu @ Vigneswara Rao, the then Deputy Forest Range Officer, V. Madugula and In-charge Forest Range Officer, Chodavaram (through Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri)

Copy to:

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri (He is requested to serve the order on the individual, obtain his dated acknowledgment on the duplicate copy and resubmit the same to Government for record)

SF/SC (Computer No.1352531)

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SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT OF ARTICLE OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SRI RALLAPALL VIGNESWARUDU @ VIGNESWARA RAO, THE THEN DEPUTY FOREST RANGE OFFICER, V.MADUGULA AND IN-CHARGE FOREST RANGE OFFICIER, CHODAVARAM.

That Sri Rallapalli Vigneswarudu @ Vigneswara Rao while functioning as Deputy Forest Range Officer, V. Madugula and In-charge Forest Range Officer, Chodavaram during the period between 30.05.2014 to 05.06.2014 committed grave misconduct abusing his official position by demanding and accepting bribe amount of Rs.12,000/- on 05.06.2014 from Sri Maddala Satyanarayana, S/o Late Seetaramayya towards gratification other than legal remuneration as a motive for showing the official favour for handing over the permit to transport teak wood logs from the fields of Sri Maddala Satyanarayana situated at M. Krishnapuram Village, V. Madugula Mandal to Pakirthakiya, Duvvada Station Road, Visakhapatnam.

That Sri Rallapalli Vigneswarudu @ Vigneswara Rao, the then Deputy Forest Range Officer, V. Madugula and In-charge Forest Range Officer, Chodavaram in pursuance of his earlier demand accepted the amount of Rs.12000/- from Sri M. Satyanarayana, received the said bribe amount of Rs.12000 /- with his left hand and gave it to the Technical Maistry Sri Mani Babu, who is standing in front of him for safe custody.

Thus, Sri Rallapalli Vigneswarudu @ Vigneswara Rao, the then Deputy Forest Range Officer, V. Madugula and In-charge Forest Range Officer, Chodavaram by his above mentioned acts has exhibited lack of integrity, devotion to duty and conduct unbecoming of a member of service and violated Rule 3 (1)(2) and (3) of A.P. Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 r/w Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

B RAJSEKHAR
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (FAC)

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE-II

STATEMENT OF IMPUTATIONS AND MISCONDUCT OR MISBEHAVIOUR IN SUPPORT OF THE ARTICLE OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SRI RALLAPALLI VIGNESWARUDU @ VIGNESWARA RAO, THE THEN DEPUTY FOREST RANGE OFFICER, V. MADUGULA AND IN-CHARGE FOREST RANGE OFFICIER, CHODAVARAM

That Sri Rallapalli Vigneswarudu @ Vigneswara Rao is a native of Rajavommangi Village, Yerravaram Taluka, East Godavari District. His date of birth is 01.10.1957. He entered into Government service on 25.05.1984 as Forester, D.E.T., Visakhapatnam. He was promoted as Deputy Range Officer, V. Madugula, Chodavaram Range. He is drawing a pay of Rs.13,660/- to 38,570/-. His Basic pay is Rs.27,000/-. He retired on attaining the age of superannuation on 30.09.2017. He is here-in-after referred to as Retired Government Servant.

FACTS & EVIDENCE:

Sri Maddala Satyanarayana, S/o Late Seetaramayya, R/o D.No 44-34-18/3, Nandagirinagar, Visakhapatnam is having a dry land about 3 acres in Sy.No.143/4 consisting of teak trees at M. Krishnapuram Village, V. Madugula Mandal, Visakhapatnam District. He got felled 100 teak trees after paying required security deposit etc., and obtaining necessary permission from the Divisional Forest Officer, Visakhapatnam in the said land vide proceedings dated 12.04.2014 of Divisional Forest Officer, Visakhapatnam. About 292 teak logs were kept ready for transporting from his land/field. On 23.05.2014, he applied to the Divisional Forest Officer, Visakhapatnam through Forest Range Officer, Chodavaram, Visakhapatnam for according transport permit to transport the said 292 teak logs from his patta land to Pakirthakiya Junction, the then Forest Range Officer forwarded the application of Sri M. Satyanarayana along with its enclosures to the Divisional Forest Officer, Visakhapatnam for issuing the transport permit.

On 02.06.2014 when Sri Maddala Satyanarayana approached the Retired Government Servant and Sri Pothina Mani Babu, Technical Maistry and to enquiry about his transport permit, they demanded an amount of Rs.15,000/- as bribe for processing and issuance of transport permit in respect of 292 teak logs. Upon his request, the Retired Government Servant reduced the bribe amount to Rs.12,000/- and instructed to pay the same to him or to Pothina Mani Babu on 05.06.2014 at their office in Chodavaram. Meanwhile, on 03.06.2014 the concerned Senior Assistant dispatched the order of transport permit along with Form-II (in triplicate) in respect of the Sri Maddala Satyanarayana to the office of Sri Rallapalli Vigneswarudu, Deputy Forest Range Officer through Sri Pothina Mani Babu duly obtaining his (Pothina Mani Babu) signature on office copy.

Since, Sri Maddala Satyanarayana is not interested to pay the bribe amount to the Retired Government Servant and Sri Pothina Mani Babu, he presented a report against them to Deputy Superintendent of Police, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Visakhapatnam for taking necessary action on 02.06.2014. After due verification, the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Visakhapatnam registered the report of Sri Maddala Satyanarayana as a case in Cr.No.15/RCT-VSP/2014, U/s 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (Central Act 49 of 1988) at 06.30 hours on 05.06.2014 and investigated into.

During the course of investigation, the Deputy Superintendent of Police secured the services of mediators and observed all required formalities to organize the trap and laid the trap.

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During the course of trap on 05.06.2014 at 13.30 hours the Retired Government Servant was caught red handed at his office situated at Forest Range Officer, Chodavaram, Visakhapatnam District when he further demanded and accepted the bribe amount of Rs.12,000/- from Sri Maddala Satyanarayana with his left hand and gave the same to Sri Pothina Mani Babu, who is standing in front his office room. Sri Pothina Mani-Babu received bribe amount with his right hand and counted with both hands and kept it in his right side shirt pocket. The bribe amount of Rs.12,000/- was recovered from the left side shirt pocket of Sri Pothina Mani Babu and the same were compared with the serial numbers mentioned in the pre-trap proceedings and found tallied. The left hand fingers of Retired Government Servant, both hand fingers and inner linings of left side shirt pocket of Sri Pothina Mani Babu, which came into contact with tainted currency, yielded positive, when subjected to chemical test. The resultant solutions were transferred into separate glass bottles, closed, sealed, labeled and attested by the mediators. The Deputy Superintendent of Police seized the tainted cash of Rs.12.000/- and the other connected records in the presence of mediators under the cover of post trap proceedings dated 05.06.2014.

Thus the facts and material so gathered during the course of investigation revealed that the Sri Rallapalli Vigneswarudu (Retired Government Servant) while working as Forest Range Officer, Chodavaram by abusing his official position demanded and accepted Rs.12,000/- on 05.06.2014 and handed over the same to his Technical Maistry, O/o the Forest Range Officer, Chodavaram as gratification other than legal remuneration from Sri Maddala Satyanarayana for doing official favour i.e., for handing over the permit to transport teak wood logs from his fields.

Thus Sri Rallapalli Vigneswarudu @ Vigneswara Rao, the then Deputy Forest Range Officer, V. Madugula and In-charge Forest Range Officer, Chodavaram by above mentioned acts has exhibited lack of integrity, devotion to duty and conduct unbecoming of a member of service and violated Rule 3(1)(2) and (3) of A.P. Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 r/w Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

B RAJSEKHAR
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (FAC)

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SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE-III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BY WHICH THE ARTICLES OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SRI RALLAPALLI VIGNESWARUDU @ VIGNESWARA RAO, THE THEN DEPUTY FOREST RANGE OFFICER, V. MADUGULA AND IN-CHARGE FOREST RANGE OFFICIER, CHODAVARAM

1) Complaint dated 02.06.2014 given by the complainant.
2)F.I.R. in Cr.No.15/RCT-VSP/2014, dated 05.06.2014 of ACB, Visakhapatnam Range.
3)Pre Trap proceedings dated 05.06.14 drafted at the O/o. DSP ACB, Visakhapatnam.
4) Post Trap proceedings dtd.05.06.14 drafted at the office of the Forest Range Officer, Chodavaram, Visakhapatnam district.
5) Statement of Maddala Satyanarayana, S/o late Seetaramayya, 53 yrs, R/o D.No.44-34-18/3, Nandagirinagar, Akkayyapalem, Visakhapatnam.
6) Statement of Devaraju Venkata Raju, S/o late Sanyasi Padal, I/c Forest Section Officer, in-charge writer, FRO's office, Chodavaram, Visakhapatnam Dist.
7) Statement of Jaldu Appa Rao, S/o Konda Babu, private Jeep driver, FRO, Chodavaram, Visakhapatnam Dist.
8) Statement of Gurrala Ravikumar, Forest Section Officer, Mediwada Section, Ravikamtham Mandal.
9) Statement of M. Seethapathi Rao, Sub-Divisional Forest Officer, Araku, Visakhapatnam District. R/o D.No.MIG-4, APHB Colony, Babametta, Vizianagaram District.
10) Statement of Mohiddin Ghouse, S/o Sk. Hussan, 46 years, Senior Asst., O/o the Divisional Forest Officer (Territorial), Visakhapatnam, R/o D.No.7-1-18, Tamil Street, Chinawaltair, Visakhapatnam.
11) A made up file relating to Xerox copies of Transport permit proceedings of the Divisional Forest Officer, Visakhapatnam vide Rc.No.859/2014-P, dtd.03.06.2014 along with Form-II transport permit No.697248, book No.13945 in triplicate valid up 10.06.2014 in respect of Teak timber 12.8900 Cmt (292 logs) belongs to Sri M. Satyanarayana containing 1 to 5 sheets.
12) A made up file relating to proceedings of the Conservator of Forests, Visakhapatnam Circle vide Rc.No.3/2014/M2, dtd.28.05.2014 pertaining to the orders for taking charge of FRO, Chodavaram by Sri R. Vigneswarudu, Dy. R.O, V. Madugula and Xerox copy of joining report dtd.30.05.2014 of Sri R. Vigneswarudu, Dy. Range Officer, V. Madugula as I/c FRO, Chodavaram along with copy of Form-39, dtd.29.05.2014- 3 sheets.
13) Letter RC.No.859/2014-P, dtd.22.09.2014 of Divisional Forest Officer, Visakhapatnam along with attested copies of the following documents.

a) Note file containing 10 pages,
b) Current file containing 128 pages in respect of the official favour.
c) Letter Rc.No.1559/14/E, dtd.06.06.2014 of office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Visakhapatnam

14) Statement of the complainant recorded u/s 164 Cr.P.C by the Hon'ble VMM, Anakapalli, Visakhapatnam.

B RAJSEKHAR
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (FAC)

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SECTION OFFICER

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ANNEXURE-IV

LIST OF WITNESSES BY WHICH THE ARTICLES OF CHARGES FRAMED AGAINST SRI RALLAPALLI VIGNESWARUDU @ VIGNESWARA RAO, THE THEN DEPUTY FOREST RANGE OFFICER, V. MADUGULA AND IN-CHARGE FOREST RANGE OFFICIER, CHODAVARAM

1. Sri Maddala Satyanarayana, S/o Late Seetaramayya, 53 yrs, R/o D.No.14-34-18/3, Nandagirinagar, Akkayyapalem, Visakhapatnam.
2. Sri Devaraju Venkata Raju, S/o Late Sanyasi Padal, I/c Forest Section Officer, In-charge Writer, /o the Forest Range Officer, Chodavaram, Visakhapatnam District.
3. Sri Jaldu Appa Rao, S/o Konda Babu, private jeep driver, FRO, Chodavaram, Visakhapatnam Dist.
4. Sri Gurrala Ravikumar, Forest Section Officer, Mediwada Section, Ravikamtham Mandal.
5. Sr. M. Seethapathi Rao, Sub-Divisional Forest Officer (Retd), Araku, Visakhapatnam District.
6. Sri Mohiddin Ghouse, S/o Sk. Hussan, 46 years, Senior Asst., O/o the Divisional Forest Officer (Territorial), Visakhapatnam, R/o D.No.7-1-18, Tamil Street, Chinawaltair, Visakhapatnam.
7. Sri Pithani Rammohan Rao, S/o Venugopala Rao, 51 years, Divisional Forest Officer (Social Forestry), Visakhapatnam and In-charge DFO (T), Visakhapatnam.
8. Sri Katupalli Ganapathi Rao, S/o Demudu, 44 years, Dy. Commercial Tax Officer, O/o CTO, Anakapalli, R/o Flat No.202, R.V. Residency, Pitapuram Colony, Visakhapatnam -3 (Mediator-1).
9. Sri Potnuru Surya Prakasa Rao, S/o late Lakshmi Narayana, 54 years, Asst. Commercial Tax Officer, O/o CTO, Kurapam Market Circle, Visakhapatnam, R/o Flat No.402, Vamsi Complex, Sankaramatam Road, Visakhapatnam city (Mediator-2).
10. Sri M. Narasimha Rao, Dy. Supdt. of Police, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Visakhapatnam.
11. Sri M.V. Ganesh, Inspector of Police, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Visakhapatnam.

B RAJSEKHAR
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (FAC)

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